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Record

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Appropriations**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 13, 1986

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Honorable William J. Casey  
 Director of Central Intelligence  
 Central Intelligence Agency  
 Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

In the course of reviewing the annual budget request for the National Foreign Intelligence Program (NFIP), the Committee is faced with a formidable task to allocate limited funds across many competing programs. We, therefore, find it necessary to consult not only with you and your staff, but also from time to time with industry officials whose expertise is necessary to ensure that Congress makes fully informed decisions.


I am writing to request your assistance in correcting a misconception under which many industry officials seem to labor -- mainly that your staff must be notified if industry representatives have contact with members of Congress or Committee staff on any NFIP programs. I could understand such a requirement based on security concerns, but this is also apparently occurring even when it is documented that the Committee and industry officials have the appropriate security clearances. Moreover, as I am sure you must be aware, Members of Congress, by virtue of their office, are permitted unimpeded access to classified information except under the most extraordinary circumstances. Finally, the Department of Defense does not find it necessary to require either prior approval of industry contact with Congress nor does it insist that all such contact be reported after the fact even on sensitive classified programs when the proper security procedures are observed by all parties.

In order to facilitate the unimpeded flow of information to the Committee, it would be appreciated if you would ensure that the intelligence community understands that industry officials have no responsibility, when proper security measures are in effect, to clear in advance or subsequently report any contact with Committee Members or appropriately cleared Committee staff. Moreover, to leave no doubt that proper security is maintained, it is requested that no later than September 15, 1986 the Committee be furnished a list of every commercial concern with significant NFIP business as either a

prime or a major subcontractor. This list should identify a point of contact for each firm and certify that the identified individual has the proper clearances to provide information the Committee may require in the conduct of its business. Moreover, it is also requested that the intelligence community provide each identified industry point of contact verification of the clearances held by the Members and pertinent staff of the Committee no later than September 15, 1986. Finally, to take every precaution that no security breaches occur, beginning November 1, 1986 a monthly report should be made to the Committee verifying that the clearances of all industry points of contact remain current.

I would appreciate your expeditious response on this matter. If additional details are required, your staff may wish to contact Mr. Bob Davis of the Committee staff for assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Bill Chappell, Jr.  
Chairman  
Defense Subcommittee